

county. These individuals work tirelessly to develop voluntary community action to improve the community's economy, its education, its environment and its overall quality of life. One individual, who is a member of this group, is Tom Kenney.

On the 19th of March, Tom will be honored with the Ira D. "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Award by the Corona-Norco Family YMCA. The award is given in memory of my father, "Cal" Calvert, and his enumerable philanthropic gifts to the community and his efforts to encourage others to serve their community in a similar fashion. The award recognizes Tom for his exceptional devotion to developing community volunteerism.

Tom was born in Pennsylvania, but moved to California during his service with the Navy. He met and married Barbara Keith, a school teacher in the Corona-Norco Unified School District, attended Riverside Community College and graduated from the University of California, Riverside. After 12 years with Prudential Insurance Company, and earning an M.B.A. from University of Southern California, Tom moved to take what became a series of executive jobs. In 1995, Tom and Barb, with their sons Christopher and Patrick, took the opportunity to purchase the Key-Freeman Agency and move back to their California home. Tom has been involved in many community organizations, serving on the boards of Corona-Norco United Way, the Corona Rotary Club, the Corona Library Foundation, and the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

Tom's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. Tom has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call Tom a fellow community member, American and friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROSS  
DUNN

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Ross Dunn, a longtime Chambers County Commissioner who recently passed away. In January, Mr. Dunn was honored for his service to the community and to the state. He was always eager to serve mankind.

After graduating from Lanier High School, he pursued his dream of serving in the military by enlisting in the Army. Following his service to the nation, Mr. Dunn earned his degree at Alabama State University.

Throughout his life, Mr. Dunn exemplified his ability to promote change by becoming the first African American to serve in many organizations. Among his many achievements, he was the first to serve on the Chambers County Pension and Security Board, the first to serve as principal of two schools in Harris County, and the first to be elected to the Chambers County Commission. He has been listed in "Men of Achievement," "Personalities of the South," "Personalities of America," and all the

editions of "Who's Who Among Black Americans."

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our community feels for his service. Our community will remember him for years to come, and I am honored to be able to recognize his achievements on this day.

JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF  
THE TULSA RACE RIOTS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a matter of justice. The Tulsa Race Riots remain today a matter unresolved in our national conscience. More than 80 years after the occurrence of this horrible event, the time has come to bring closure. A March 13th article in the New York Daily News sheds light on the Tulsa Race Riots and the current effort underway to obtain justice for the victims.

Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921 was something of an African American success story. The city's Black community, known as Greenwood, had developed into a prosperous area of shops, hotels, gaming halls and restaurants that was known throughout the Southwest. So significant was its reputation, that the famous Black leader Booker T. Washington would dub Greenwood "the Black Wall Street."

However, the Black community's prosperity was a source of resentment among many of city's white residents. Racial tension in the city was palpable. This and other factors would eventually manifest themselves, with deadly consequences.

The Tulsa Race Riots began May 31, 1921, when police arrested a black youth for allegedly assaulting a white woman, a charge later dismissed. A crowd of whites gathered outside the courthouse where the youth was being held, calling for his lynching.

According to a 2001 report commissioned by the State of Oklahoma, Black citizens from the Greenwood neighborhood armed themselves and went to the courthouse to defend the young man. After an initial period of confusion, a shot was fired and a gunfight ensued.

A white mob then marched to the Greenwood area of the city and began to destroy the 40-block neighborhood. Left unobstructed by police and Oklahoma National Guard troops, the white mob burned nearly all of Greenwood to the ground, leaving nearly 9,000 people homeless. A total of 1,256 homes were destroyed, along with "virtually every other structure, including churches, business, schools, even a hospital and a library."

The mob also killed many Black citizens in the process. Officially, the death count for the Riots had been put at 38 people, but the 2001 Oklahoma State report put the figure closer to 300 individuals.

In the immediate aftermath of the destruction, more than 100 Greenwood residents unsuccessfully filed lawsuits attempting to recover damages. A grand jury convened to determine the cause of the riot and actually faulted the city's African-American residents. Sub-

sequently, the issue would seemingly disappear for nearly eighty years.

However, after the publication of the 2001 Oklahoma state report, a group of 150 Riot survivors and their descendants, represented by Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree, sued the state of Oklahoma, the city of Tulsa, the city's police department and its police chief.

Lower courts dismissed the case on the grounds that a two-year statute of limitations on the 1921 incident had long since passed. Prof. Ogletree has argued that the statute of limitations should not have started until 2001, when the state commission appointed to investigate the riots completed its report, and revealed the culpability of state and local government.

In March 2004, U.S. District Court Judge James O. Ellison ruled that the statute-of limitations should extend to a time when the defendants could receive a fair hearing in court, but he also argued that such an opportunity was present as early as the 1960s.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that ruling in September 2004, but argued that the case should have been brought during 1980s, when a book about the Riots was published—thus giving the plaintiffs the evidence they needed in bringing the case.

Prof. Ogletree has argued that not all the victims knew about the book, and that the government still had not acknowledged its culpability until the state commission report in 2001. Furthermore, until the state commission's report, the official stance of the State of Oklahoma was that the Black citizens of Tulsa were responsible for the Riots.

As a result of the recent decision against the plaintiffs by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, Prof. Ogletree and his legal team are now seeking to have the case brought before the United States Supreme Court. The Court received a petition brief from Prof. Ogletree and his team on March 9th, and a decision is pending.

Millions of children around our nation recite a daily pledge, an oath of allegiance to a nation which promises "justice for all." Unfortunately, our country has not always exhibited the national virtues described in that pledge. The victims of the Tulsa Race Riots have undoubtedly been denied justice, and now a legal technicality threatens to ensure that they will never obtain it. Let us not allow this to happen—for the sake of the Tulsa Race Riot victims, and for the sake of our nation.

TIME TO FIX RIOT'S WRONGS

By E.R. Shipp

[From the Daily News, Mar. 13, 2005]

To white folks back in the day, it was Niggertown. To black folks during that same time, it was The Black Wall Street. It was the Greenwood section of Tulsa, Okla. And the gap in perception is the frame of the issue that might be decided ultimately by the U.S. Supreme Court: reparations.

Reparations make sense when one can demonstrate that one has suffered a loss. That is not the case for most black folk who, when they hear politicians and college professors say "reparations," are hoping that the government will become their Lotto ticket to wealth.

If the high court agrees to take on the Tulsa case, laid out in a petition led last